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TELEGRAM

September 21, 2003

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 4294 - UNKNOWN)  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PTER, CVIS, CASC, ETRD, EFIN  
Captions: None  
Subject: U.S.-UAE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP, OCT. 5-6: PROPOSED  
TOPICS AND FORMAT  
Ref: None

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 04294

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: ECON  
INFO: CONS P/M AMB POL DCM  
Laser1:  
INFO: CONS FCS

DISSEMINATION: ECON  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB:MMWAHBA  
DRAFTED: POL:JFMAYBURY  
CLEARED: DCM:RAALBRIGHT; ECON:CMARTIN-CRUMPLER

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1783  
INFO RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 3417  
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 004294

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/FO, NEA/ARP AND NEA/RA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/20/13  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [CVIS](#) [CASC](#) [ETRD](#) [EFIN](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: U.S.-UAE Strategic Partnership, Oct. 5-6:  
Proposed topics and format

11. (U) Classified by Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba for reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

12. (C) Summary and Action request: We have reached agreement with the UAEG on the topics and format for the October 5-6 U.S.-UAE Strategic Partnership in Abu Dhabi. October 5 will be the substantive, working day for the US delegation, with October 6 reserved for the plenary session, ceremonial event, and a lunch. We have broken the topics for the working sessions into five broad categories: Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI); Counterterrorism/Law Enforcement Cooperation; Consular Issues; Global Issues -

Trafficking in Persons; and Middle East Free Trade Agreement (MEFTA).

13. (C) Summary and Action request continued: The plenary day will include opening remarks and an overview of key regional issues by A/S Burns and de facto Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, a presentation on MEPI, a summary of progress achieved and follow-up required from the bilateral working sessions, a possible Article 98 signing ceremony, and a lunch. For all sessions, we have listed desired participants. Request NEA/ARP use these names and/or offices to recruit appropriate US interlocutors. We will send a scenesetter for A/S Burns' meetings on the margins of the Strategic Partnership septel. The Embassy requests NEA's approval of this structure and format. End Summary and Action request.

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Working Group Sessions (Oct. 5)  
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14. (C) The first day will be the substantive, working day. Delegates can expect to meet with UAEG counterparts at their respective ministries. Each group will prepare minutes reflecting progress and next steps to be included in the report to the plenary. The list of agreed upon Working Groups and the Embassy's requests for US participants (names and/or offices) follow:

1A. MEPI: Meetings with the Ministry of Economy to discuss WTO technical training, with the Ministry of Information to discuss media training, and with the Ministry of Justice to discuss judicial training, which the Emiratis have requested. MEPI-funded WTO compliance training has commenced in Bahrain this month, and training is to continue in locations throughout the Gulf through Fall 2004. We understand the MEPI office plans to ask the UAEG to host two seminars in the UAE - intellectual property rights on works on the Internet and one other (TBD) - and encourage UAE participation in the other seminars. On media training, PAO has received approval for UAE participation in the Internews media training project. PAO is planning a workshop in Arabic, with Radio Sawa Bureau Chief. Our plan is to work with Internews to identify potential training opportunities. We have already been contacted by Abu Dhabi TV and Dubai TV, which are interested in participating in the project. (Request NEA/PI - Alina Romanowski; MEPI consultant Emad Tinawi from Booz Allen)

1B. Counterterrorism/Law Enforcement Cooperation: Both the US and the UAE want to make progress toward an MLAT. The MLAT will require more negotiations between the UAEG intra-agency group and the State/Justice team. In addition, the UAEG has requested discussion on terrorist financing and money laundering training and ongoing cooperation. We want to confirm our interest in offering a Department of Justice training course for public prosecutors and judges, as well as ongoing FBI training courses. (We request the State/Justice team for the MLAT discussions. We request DOJ/OPDAT - Jim Silverwood to discuss proposed training for UAE public prosecutors and judges.)

We anticipate the UAEG (Ministry of Justice, Central Bank, MFA) will raise questions related to specific terrorist financing investigations. It may be prudent for a Treasury or FBI representative to be prepared to discuss these issues. We do not/not believe an OFAC representative should travel to the UAE to discuss specific issues (especially ARBIFT) at this time, but wait until the Emiratis make good on their promise to replace ARBIFT's Libyan chairman. (Request State to identify appropriate person within Treasury to discuss

terrorist financing issues.)

¶C. Consular Issues: Meetings with Ministry of Foreign Affairs Consular Affairs Department to discuss consular notification, UAE passports, visas and treatment of high-level UAE officials. We want the UAE to enact specific legislation to provide for notification to foreign nationals, who are arrested or detained, of their right of consular notification and access. We also want to raise our concerns regarding UAE passports being issued with incorrect biographic data. The Emiratis seek clarification on visa procedures, particularly for students and persons seeking medical treatment. Senior officials with the UAEG have complained of mistreatment at ports of entry, especially after 9/11. (Request State to identify appropriate person within CA, as well as DHS/Athens - Jacob Antoninis)

¶D. Global Issues/Trafficking in Persons: Meetings with Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, to discuss future cooperation. We want to build on the UAE's Trafficking in Persons success story. (Post already has received country clearance request from G/TIP - Sally Neumann)

¶E. MEFTA: Both the US and UAE are committed to a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement and we hope to have concluded a final text by the time of the Strategic Partnership. A TIFA signing would then take place in Washington during Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamdan's late October visit to Washington. In addition, given the UAE's eagerness to conclude a Free Trade Agreement, we think it would be timely to have an FTA expert come here to explain necessary steps to conclude an FTA. (Request USTR - A/USTR Cathy Novelli or her representative. If USTR is unavailable, request appropriate person from State/EB.)

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Plenary Session, Events (Oct. 6)  
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¶5. (C) The second day will be the plenary session to include a possible signing ceremony for Article 98 and a lunch. In addition, the Embassy will arrange bilateral meetings for A/S Burns on the margins of the Strategic Partnership. Regarding Article 98, both sides aim to finalize this accord by that time. The MFA has told us that the UAEG has one unresolved issue that will probably require a teleconference with Washington nlt Sept. 29. We request Department instructions on how to formalize an Article 98 (i.e. exchange of dip notes). We would welcome Ambassador Bodine for this event.

The agreed upon format for the plenary day follows:

12:00 - 12:30 Opening Remarks and Regional Issues (15 minutes each). Speakers: HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and NEA A/S William Burns

12:30 - 12:45 MEPI Overview. Speaker: Request NEA DAS - Liz Cheney

12:45 - 1:15 Bilateral Topics, Summary and Next Steps. Speakers: MFA U/S Abdullah Rashid Al-Noaimi and Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba

1:30 - 1:45 Article 98 signing ceremony.

2:00 - 3:30 UAEG hosted lunch  
WAHBA